

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. – Acts 16:25-34

Baptist

Someone who believes exclusively in believer baptism or "credobaptism"

Defeater:

"The New Testament has no examples of infants being baptized."

Defeater:

"Baptism should always be by immersion, so infant baptism is impossible."

Example:

When someone is said to be "baptized in the Spirit" (Acts 1:5) the imagery is not of someone going down into the Spirit but the Spirit being poured out from above (2:17-18,33; 10:45).

Defeater:

“Baptism signifies union with and faith in Christ, and we have no way of knowing if this is true of an infant.”

“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also raised with him **through faith** in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:11-12)

Key Question:

In these passages, is Paul talking about **water** baptism?

“Baptized into Christ” is a Christian expression for being absorbed into Christ and associated with Him.

Key Question:

Is the symbolism of baptism tied to the **timing** of its administration?

“Rather, he simply declares the doctrine that underlies baptism—and declares it to those who are already baptized.” – John Calvin

“Circumcise your heart, and be no longer stubborn” (Deuteronomy 10:16)

“Circumcise yourselves to the Lord; remove the foreskin of your hearts” (Jeremiah 4:4)

The mark of circumcision symbolized their inward need to have their sin cut away, and yet most received the mark of circumcision when they were babies. The *timing* of the mark didn't matter for what it symbolized.

1. It doesn't matter that we don't clear examples of infants being baptized in the New Testament because we don't see any Baptist kids in the New Testament either.

2. The word “baptism” is not exclusively used to describe immersion, so we don't need to let that issue cloud the debate.

3. While baptism does symbolize union with Christ, this does not tell us about the timing of baptism, just as the timing of circumcision wasn't tied to its symbolism.

In Judaism, baptism rituals and ceremonial washings were understood as household rituals—children and even infants were baptized right along with their parents.

This is because, in the Old Testament, God included believers and their children in the covenant community.

When Christianity adopted the practice of baptism, it maintained this same pattern of household baptism for the same reason: the church included children in the covenant community.

Therefore it is fitting to baptize the children of believers today.

“When Gentiles adopted the Jewish faith it was completely taken for granted that at the same time the children also, including very young children, should be received into the Jewish faith.” – *Joachim Jeremias*

When we see the church adopt the practice of baptism, do we see them follow this pattern of household baptism or do we see them make a radical break from this pattern?

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31)

“...and he was baptized at once, he and *all his family*...And he rejoiced along with his entire household that *he had believed* in God.” (Acts 16:33-34)

More Household Baptisms

The household of Cornelius (Acts 10:28; 11:14)

The household of Lydia (Acts 16:15)

The household of Crispus (Acts 18:8)

The household of Stephanus (1 Corinthians 1:16)

“I will establish my covenant between me and you and your *offspring* after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your *offspring* after you.”
(Genesis 17:7)

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, *to a thousand generations.*” (Deuteronomy 7:9)

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to **children’s children**, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.” *(Psalm 103:17-18)*

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,’ declares the Lord. ‘And as for me, this is my covenant with them,’ says the Lord: ‘My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your **offspring**, or out of the mouth of your **children’s offspring**,’ says the Lord, ‘from this time forth and forevermore.’”

(Isaiah 59:20-21)

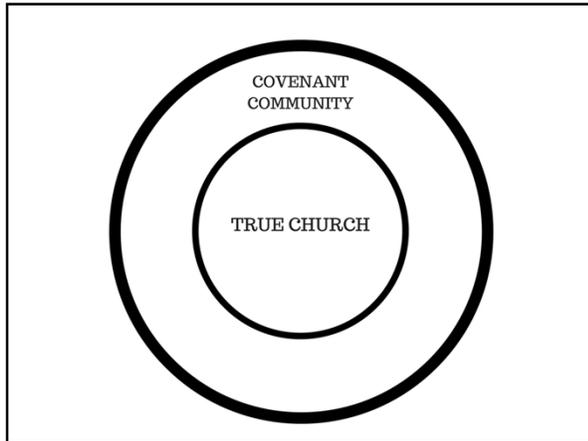
“They shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of **their children after them**. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them.”

(Jeremiah 32:38-40)

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 18:16)

“your children...are holy [saints]”
(1 Corinthians 7:14)



- As children in a believing home, “they are holy” (1 Corinthians 7:14), meaning they are set apart for God.
- Growing up in the church they are “enlightened” (Hebrews 6:4) with the gospel, having “tasted the goodness of the word of God” (v.5) because, like the Jews before, they are “entrusted with the oracles of God” (Romans 3:2).
- Because of this, they have “tasted the heavenly gift” (Hebrews 6:4), which is Christ and the grace he brings.
- Growing up in the church, they have “shared in the Holy Spirit...and the powers of the age to come” (Hebrews 6:4-5)—all the ways the Spirit has empowered and gifted people in the church to live a holy life, to serve the world, to convincingly teach the gospel.

